

2005 Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

Central Klickitat Conservation District



Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

- We completed a project that started 2 years ago as a Reed Canarygrass infested marsh on Blockhouse Creek, a tributary to the Little Klickitat which has a TMDL for elevated temperature. Now the 700 foot section is channeled, sloped and fenced with native shrubs and trees planted. (pictured) Livestock are excluded except for hardened water gaps where they have access to water. The flowing stream will stay cooler and the shade from the plantings will also cool the water. As a result of this project we have had inquiries for adjacent landowners for 3 similar project sites.



Mission of the Central Klickitat Conservation District

- *The mission of the Central Klickitat CD is to improve, conserve and promote the wise use of natural resources by serving citizens within the CKCD through education, public information, technical advice, and financial assistance.*

Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- Completed 1.5 miles of fencing around wetlands in Simcoe Mountain pastures.
- Completed spring repairs and cattle watering access repairs on 3 springs in Simcoe Mountain pastures.
- Began livestock exclusion fencing project around Butler Creek, a tributary to the Little Klickitat River
- Completed restoration projects on ½ mile of streams, began initial engineering on 1 more stream restoration project and completed plans for 1 stream project.
- Completed planting and fencing of 1 stream project.
- Did initial planning and design guide on 2 wildlife ponds, 2 sediment ponds with diversion channels
- Made field review and recommendations for maintenance of 4 existing springs that are not providing enough water for Maryhill Museum.

Water Quality Implementation

- Central Klickitat CD paid out \$20,011 in cost sharing water quality improvement projects. These included converting wheat/fallow ground to permanent cover and converting from conventional farming to direct seeding or no-till farming as well as irrigation efficiency improvements. A total of 6 landowners were given cost share for tillage conversion, two for irrigation efficiency improvements, and 3 cost shares for direct seed.

Basic Funding

- Central Klickitat CD helped residents obtain trees and shrubs for conservation planting this spring. Over 88,000 trees and shrubs required by CCRP, CRP and CREP programs were ordered through our district office. In addition, several thousand plants were obtained from other sources. Most of these plants were purchased to provide wildlife habitat, create windbreaks, and protect soil and water quality.
- This is the 11th consecutive year of a comprehensive water quality monitoring program. Twenty four sites have been selected and monitored at different levels of intensity. All of the streams are monitored for temperature, stream flow, pH, nitrates and dissolved oxygen. Stream width and depth measurement is also taken.

Local Funding

- A local landowner requested our assistance in engineering and construction design of a wildlife pond for which she had obtained grant funds. We provided design plans and construction oversight for the pond which is functioning perfectly. We have since had two more requests for similar ponds, which we

will help obtain funding for. We have assisted 2 other landowners with assessing the leaking associated with their livestock and wildlife ponds.

- We are assisting a landowner on the Little Klickitat River with re-vegetating after logging was required to protect buildings from loss by falling trees. We are working on some stream bank repairs and in-channel log structures to create fish habitat and direct the channel during high flow events.

Puget Sound/Water Quality N/A

Professional Engineering

- Our cluster engineer provides engineering services for 5 districts.
- Site visits and field surveys were done and a preliminary design prepared to address channel bank erosion and to improve water quality on ¼ mile of the Little Klickitat River within the city limits of Goldendale on two project sites. Construction is due to begin Sept 6, 2005 on one of the project sites and funding is being sought on the other.
- Made surveys and design layout for two center pivot irrigation systems, converting from side roll wheel lines to center pivots.
- Survey, design and cost estimates were done and construction completed for a stream channel renovation including livestock access, exclusion fencing and riparian plantings
- Made an initial site assessment for in-channel habitat and flow control structures on the Little Klickitat River at the confluence of Butler Creek, East and West Prongs.
- A total of 42 landowners were given technical assistance
- Eleven cooperators implemented Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- 29 small farm BMPs were completed
- 18 habitat BMPs were completed
- 4 livestock BMPs were completed
- 21 non point water quality improvement BMPs were completed
- During this time period \$13,000 was leveraged with this grant on a habitat pond funded through WDFW

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- We made assessments for two new contracts. One was ultimately ineligible; the other is qualified and may sign a contract soon.

Livestock/Dairy

Irrigation Efficiencies

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- We continue to work with Washington DOE in the TMDL process for the Little Klickitat River. We have placed a priority on finding projects for the Little Klickitat basin that will enhance water quality and reduce water temperature. The Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) is completed and we are providing them to the community.
- Made contacts and did preliminary surveys on 3 in stream projects that will affect the TMDL when implemented.
- We were approached by a landowner within the TMDL watershed to improve an existing wetland
- Finished plantings and fencing on 2 stream repair/habitat enhancement projects.
- Completed a spring/livestock watering enhancement project in the Simcoe Mountains
- Central Klickitat CD continues to take an active role in the WRIA 30 watershed planning process

Small Farm Programs

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Central Klickitat CD continues to provide pesticide re-certification credits for the annual meeting. This year over 50 landowners attended.
- We continue to use Northwest Service Academy for various projects. Usually these crews are used for fencing or planting.

- We are involved in Coordinated Resource Management Plans for 2 active stakeholder groups in the Simcoe Mountains.
 - We continue to be active participants in the WRIA 30 planning process
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Marketing/Outreach & Education

- We continue to work with area schools to provide instruction and hands on planting practice.
- We had planting days for the 5th grade and 2nd grade students from Goldendale Schools where each grade planted over 200 pine trees for a local landowner
- Our booth at the Klickitat County Fair reaches up to 5000 people per year
- Each year at our annual meeting we provide pesticide credits to landowners. This also provides us an opportunity to educate local landowners on CKCD programs and accomplishments

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



Second Grade students are being instructed on how to plant a tree before planting them on their own